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Message Text

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60
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USPS-01 EB-07 COME-00 SAB-01

AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /108 W
---------- 023186
P 052010Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9172
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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STATE FOR IO/TRC

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PN, CU, PE, PQ, PORG, RQ, PFOR, PUAS
SUBJ: POSTAL CONGRESS REJECTS CUBAN PROPOSALS ON "COLONIALISM" FROM THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION

SUMMARY: THE XI CONGRESS OF THE POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS AND SPAIN (PUAS) ON MARCH 4 DECISIVELY REJECTED A CUBAN PROPOSAL WHICH WAS APPARENTLY MEANT TO EXCLUDE THE CANAL ZONE AND GUANTANAMO BAY FROM THE LIMITS OF THE UNION. PANAMA MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT CALLING U.S. POSTAL OPERATIONS IN THE CANAL ZONE ILLEGAL AND THE U.S. READ A STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ON-GOING U.S. -PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS WERE THE APPROPRIATE FORM FOR ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF MAIL SERVICE IN THE CANAL ZONE AREA. OTHER CUBAN PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD HAVE BESTOWED PUAS MEMBERSHIP AUTOMATICALLY ON "ANY SOVEREIGN COUNTRY OF THE AMERICAS" UPON APPLICATION, THUS ELIMINATING THE PROVISIONS REGARDING "COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES", WAS ALSO REJECTED OVERWHELMINGLY IN SECRET BALLOTING. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS AND SPAIN (PUAS IS COMPOSED

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OF CANADA, THE US, SPAIN AND THE 20 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
AND HOLDS A PLENARY CONGRESS EVERY FIVE YEARS TO CONSIDER
MUTUAL POSTAL CONCERNS. CUBA IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.
THE XI CONGRESS MEETS MARCH 1-18 IN LIMA.

2. THE FIRST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE CONGRESS AROSE
ON MARCH 4 DURING CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
AND GENERAL REGULATIONS. CUBAN PROPOSAL 1003.1, THE KEY PROPOSAL
FOR US INTERESTS, WAS CONSIDERED FIRST. IT WOULD HAVE DEFINED
THE LIMITS OF THE UNION AS "THE TERRITORIAL EXTENT OF ALL
THE MEMBER COUNTRIES". THIS WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED THE
CURRENT PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 3 WHICH STATE THE LIMITS TO INCLUDE:
A) THE TERRITORIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES;
B) THE POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES IN
TERRITORIES NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE UNION; AND
C) OTHER TERRITORIES WHICH, WITHOUT BEING MEMBERS OF THE
UNION, DEPEND ON MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR POSTAL SERVICES.

3. IN THE DEBATE ON THE PROPOSAL, PANAMA SAID IT FULLY SUPPORTED
CUBA'S PROPOSAL AND DECLARED PANAMA'S INTENTION TO REPEAT ITS
POSITION ON THE CANAL ZONE AS STATED AT THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU) AT LAUZANNE IN 1974. IN A FEW
WORDS PANAMA'S SOLE DELEGATE TO THE LIMA MEETING SAID THAT THE
CANAL ZONE WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, THAT
SOVEREIGNTY HAD NEVER BEEN RELINQUISHED TO THE UNITED STATES,
THAT THE ZONE WAS PART OF THE SINGLE POSTAL UNIT WHICH PANAMA
CONSTITUTED, AND THAT THE PRESENT POSTAL OPERATIONS IN THE
ZONE WERE ILLEGAL.

4. OTHER COUNTRIES SPOKE TO OTHER POINTSM SPAIN DEFENDED ITS
RELATIONSHIP WITH ANDORRA; NICARAGUA, CUBA AND VENEZUELA ASSURED
SPAIN THAT SPAIN WAS NOT UNDER ATTACK, AND VENEZUELA CITED ITS
ROLE OF DEFENDING PANAMA'S INTERESTS.

5. UPON A REQUEST BY PERU TO MAKE A BROADER STATEMENT, CUBA
SAID THAT IT HAD IN MIND THE CANAL ZONE AND GUANTANAMO AS
COLONIAL SITUATIONS IN AMERICA WHICH SHOULD BE ENDED. IN
ELEVEN MINUTES OF DISCUSSION ONLY PANAMA AND CUBA DIRECTLY
MENTIONED THE U.S., THE CANAL ZONE OR GUANTANAMO.

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6. THE U.S. CLOSED THE DEBATE BY READING THE FIRST PART OF
THE STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE
LEGAL ADVISOR OF THE US-PANAMA NEGOTIATING TEAM. THE FOLLOWING
POINTS WERE MADE (IN SUMMARY):

A) THE CONGRESS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR CONSIDERING
THE QUESTION,
B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PUAS IS TO FACILITATE MAIL SERVICE,

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NOT TO RESOLVE BILATERAL ISSUES,
C) THE ENTIRE CANAL ISSUE IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE KISSINGER-TACK STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF FEBRUARY 7, 1974,
D) THESE NEGOTIATIONS ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE RANGE OF TREATY RELATIONSHIPS INCLUDING JURISDICTION AND FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE TWO NATIONS,
E) THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE FORUM FOR ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF MAIL SERVICE IN THE CANAL ZONE AREA.

7. WITH NO FURTHER COMMENT BY ANY DELEGATIONS, THE CHAIRMAN CALLED FOR A VOTE WHICH, UPON THE REQUEST OF THE U.S., WAS CAST IN SECRET. THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED ONLY SIX VOTES AND WAS DEFEATED 6-12(US)-1 (GUATEMALA, HAITI, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HONDURAS WERE ABSENT).

8. TWO HOURS LATER, FIVE MORE CUBAN PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ONLY FIVE VOTES IN A SINGLE SECRET BALLOT, LOSING BY A MARGIN OF 5-13(US)-2 (WITH GUATEMALA VOTING). CONSITIUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REQUIRE AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF 16.

9. THE BASIC PROPOSAL (1011.1) WOULD HAVE OFFERED "ANY SOVEREIGN COUNTRY OF THE AMERICAS" MEMBERSHIP UPON APPLICATION. THE PRESENT CONSITITUTIONAL PROVISIONS MAKE MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE TO "COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES" OF THE AMERICAS WHICH ARE UPU MEMBERS AND WITHOUT CONFLICTS OF SOVEREIGNTY WITH PUAS MEMBERS AND ALLOW SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO THE UPU TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

10. PRPOSAL 1101.1 TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
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REQUIRES APPROVAL OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE OTHER PROPOSALS (100.1, 1100.1, AND 1002.1) WERE EDITORIAL CHANGES TO CONFORM WITH 1011.1 AND 1101.1. THE FIVE PROPOSALS WERE CONSIDERED AS A PACKAGE AND VOTED UPON WITHOUT DEBATE. THE US PLAYED NO ROLE IN THIS.

11. THE SIX CUBAN PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED IN A COMMITTEE IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS ARE REPRESENTED BUT THEY COULD BE RAISED AGAIN IN PLENARY DURING THE NEXT TEN DAYS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT THIS, HOWEVER, AND LESS REASON TO THINK THAT CUBA WOULD DO SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER ON A SECOND TRY.

12. THE CUBAN DELEGATION IS LED BY DR. LUIS SOLA VILA WHO HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE, CAPABLE AND THUS FAR GENERALLY A CONSTRUCTIVE DELEGATE. HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONVERTING A PERUVIAN

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PROPOSAL ((0003) WHICH WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE NATURE OF THE PUAS OVERNIGHT) INTO A LONG-TERM STUDY PROJECT AND DID IT WITHOUT OFFENDING ANYONE.

13. THE DRAFTING OFFICER SPOKE WITH PANAMA'S DELEGATE, LIC. JULIO ESPINO, SUB-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POST AND TELE-COMMUNICATIONS, A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE VOTING DESCRIBED. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY PLANS TO OFFER A CANAL ZONE RESOLUTION AT SOME LATER DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLONIALISM, POSTAL SERVICE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, PROPOSALS (BID), FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIMA02166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0450
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadcgt.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTAL CONGRESS REJECTS CUBAN PROPOSALS ON "COLONIALISM" FROM THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, PN, CU, PE, PQ, RQ, PUAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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